

RETURN

(87)

(In Part) To an ADDRESS of the HOUSE OF COMMONS, dated April 3, 1901, for copies of all correspondence, telegrams and messages in the Government Labour Bureau between the department and all persons referring to the labour strike at Valleyfield, in Beauharnois county, province of Quebec, during the month of November last ; also copies of all letters, telegrams and messages exchanged between the Militia Department and the Municipal authorities at Valleyfield, or any justices of the peace, the military authorities at Montreal or any other persons relating to the said strike, and the calling out or payment of the troops in connection therewith ; also a statement showing expenses incurred by the Dominion government in reference to said strike.

R. W. SCOTT,  
Secretary of State.

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**1.**

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR, CANADA.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE,  
OTTAWA, . . . . . 190.

The *Labour Gazette* of the Department of Labour publishes, among other matters of importance to employers and workmen, a monthly record of trade disputes in Canada, and in order that its account may be as accurate and impartial as possible, request is made of interested parties, or their representatives, for a statement of the facts in regard to the matter in dispute in so far as these are to be ascertained.

The department has been informed of a dispute in . . . . . and that the matter is one of concern to . . . . .

In accordance with the custom of the department, I inclose herewith two blank forms such as are sent to parties interested in trade disputes, and request that you will have the kindness to fill up one of these blanks immediately, in so far as you are able to supply the information in regard to the points indicated, together with such additional information as may seem to you desirable, and return it at your earliest possible convenience to this department.

As soon as the dispute is terminated please fill up and return the second blank form.

**2.**

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR, CANADA.

TRADE DISPUTES.

Locality . . . . .  
Trade or industry . . . . .  
Firms or establishments involved : . . . . .  
Union or Unions (if any) involved. . . . .  
Cause or object of dispute . . . . .

	DIRECTLY.	†INDIRECTLY.
Number of firms or establishments affected. . . . .		
Approximate number of employees affected :—		
Males, 21 years or over. . . . .		
“ under 21 years. . . . .		
Females, 21 years or over. . . . .		
“ under 21 years. . . . .		
Total . . . . .		

Date of commencement . . . . .  
Date of termination. . . . .  
Result . . . . .  
Remarks : . . . . .

.....  
*Signature of person supplying above  
information.*

† ‘Indirectly’ refers to those thrown out of work at the establishments where the dispute occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked out.



3.

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR, CANADA.

TRADE DISPUTES.

Locality—Valleyfield, Que.

Trade or industry—Cotton factory.

Firms or establishments involved—Montreal Cotton Co.

Union or unions (if any) involved—L'Union Ouvriere de Valleyfield.

Cause or object of dispute—Company turned out men of the union unjustly, although they took no part in the strike. A new strike took place on Monday among men (labourers) digging foundations of new factory. The company paid them only \$1 per day, when all other concerns actually pay \$1.25, which was often demonstrated to the company.

	DIRECTLY.	†INDIRECTLY.
Number of firms or establishments affected. ....	1	1
Approximate number of employees affected :—		
Males, 21 years or over.....	About 200	.....
“    under 21.....	.....	.....
Females, 21 years or over.....	.....	.....
“    under 21 years.....	.....	.....
Total.....	.....	.....

Date of commencement—October 22, 1900.

Date of termination.....

Result.....

Remarks—The union would be very glad if you could come down and see how things go.

LOUIS BERTRAND,  
Sec. Labour Union.

4.

(Telegram.)  
Copy.

To the Editor of the LABOUR GAZETTE,  
Department of Labour,  
Ottawa, Ont.

October 26, 1900.

From Valleyfield, Que.

As we had no news from you, would like to know the reason you did not come.

LOUIS BERTRAND,  
Sec. Labour Union.

†‘Indirectly’ refers to those thrown out of work at the establishment where the dispute occurred, but at themselves on strike or locked out.



1 EDWARD VII., A. 1901

5.

*(Telegram.)**Copy.*

OTTAWA, October 26, 1900.

To LOUIS BERTRAND,  
Secretary l'Union Ouvriere,  
Valleyfield, Que.

As editor of GAZETTE am unable to leave Ottawa. Am writing you fully.

W. L. MACKENZIE KING,  
Editor of the LABOUR GAZETTE.

6.

*Copy.*

OTTAWA, October 26, 1901.

LOUIS BERTRAND, Esq.,  
Secretary Labour Union,  
Valleyfield, Que.

Your telegram of this morning was a surprise to me, as this department had not received any formal communication from the Union at Valleyfield to send a representative there.

I notice on the blank form of schedule which you filled in reference to the present strike, under the head of 'remarks' you state that the union would be glad if I came down and saw things for myself. As these schedules are sent to both employers and employees and are only for the purpose of gathering information for publication in the LABOUR GAZETTE, a reference of this sort could hardly be regarded as sufficient justification for this department to send any one to look into the dispute in question.

Besides, as editor of the LABOUR GAZETTE, I would not, on my own initiative, feel free to leave Ottawa without special authorization from the Minister.

Since receiving your telegram I have communicated with the Hon. Mr. Mulock, Minister of Labour, who is at present in Western Ontario, and will doubtless receive a reply as soon as my telegram reaches him, and I will notify you immediately of the result.

W. L. MACKENZIE KING,  
Editor of the LABOUR GAZETTE.

7.

*(Telegram.)**Copy.*

October 26, 1900.

To Hon. WM. MULOCK,  
Aurora, Ont.

*From Ottawa, Ont., via Clarksburg.*

*Re Valleyfield Cotton Mills strike.*—Louis Bertrand, Secretary Labour Union, Valleyfield, wires union desires government representative at Valleyfield. Will you appoint some one to meet parties? Urgent need for conciliatory action. Militia called out.

W. L. MACKENZIE KING



SESSIONAL PAPER No. 87

8.

*(Telegram)*

AURORA, Oct. 27, 1900.

To LOUIS BERTRAND,  
Secretary Labour Union,  
Valleyfield, Que.

Just received telegram from Mr. King, Deputy Minister of Labour, informing me of telegram from you asking government representative to meet parties to Valleyfield Cotton Mills dispute, with a view to conciliatory action. If friendly intervention of Department of Labour acceptable to both parties, I would be pleased to render every possible assistance looking to satisfactory settlement of differences by means either of board of conciliation or arbitration. If both parties desire it, I will be glad to confer with them with a view to selection of satisfactory board and to be a member of same, either as umpire or otherwise. At present much engaged with elections, if parties look favourably upon this offer would suggest that for present strike be suspended and men return to work, and on the 8th November I will proceed to Valleyfield, confer with both parties and lend every possible assistance in the direction indicated, so as to bring about such a settlement of matters in dispute as will meet the reasonable demand of both parties. Am under engagement to address public meetings every day (Sunday excepted) until election day. Therefore, to take up the Valleyfield strike matter until after election would compel me to abandon further part in pending political campaign; nevertheless, am perfectly willing to make this sacrifice if parties to dispute are unwilling to suspend strike and if they desire my immediate friendly intervention. Am telegraphing to like effect to Mayor of Valleyfield and Mr. Greenshields on behalf of Montreal Cotton Company of Valleyfield. Perhaps you would see him upon this subject at once.

WM. MULOCK,  
Minister of Labour.

NOTE:—Similar telegrams to above sent by Hon. Mr. Mulock to J. N. Greenshields, Esq., K.C., Montreal; the Mayor of Valleyfield, and Deputy Minister of Labour. (Exhibits 9, 10 and 11-)

12.

*(Telegram,)*  
*Copy.*

OTTAWA, October 27, 1900.

LOUIS BERTRAND,  
Secretary Labour Union,  
Valleyfield.

The Minister of Labour wires me that in reply to your telegram which I forwarded to him, he has communicated with you and other parties offering friendly intervention of Department of Labour toward settlement of present dispute. I hope this reply will prove satisfactory.

W. L. MACKENZIE KING,  
Editor, LABOUR GAZETTE.



1 EDWARD VII., A. 1901

**13.***Copy.*

MONTREAL, 28th October, 1900.

Hon. W. MULOCK,  
Aurora, Ont.

Your telegram received *re* strike at Valleyfield. There is no dispute between the company and their operatives, and no demand has been made by them on the company. They are not working, but for what reason we do not know. The demand for increased wages was made by men who were temporarily employed as labourers in excavations being made for a new mill. This work under any circumstances would have been stopped in about three weeks, and under the circumstances the company have decided to discontinue the work. There is nothing to arbitrate or settle between the company or any of their employees. The company appreciate your kind offer.

J. N. GREENSHIELDS.

**14**

(Telegram,)  
*Copy.*

October, 29th, 1900.

Hon. WM. MULOCK,  
Cookstown, Ont.

From Valleyfield, Que.

Have interviewed strikers and company and am at present acting as conciliator between them. Company wish me to get proposition from men which they will consider. Have arranged for meeting of strikers to-night and believe that to-morrow company will consent to withdrawal of troops and men return to work. Only about 250 still out. Presence of troops main cause of trouble. Sympathy of town with strikers and against presence of militia. Attorney General of Quebec has refused to send extra police at mayor's request, all city councillors against mayor and company. Believe settlement will be effected through Act.

W. L. MACKENZIE KING.

**15.**

(Telegram,)  
*Copy.*

30th October, 1900.

To W. L. MACKENZIE KING,  
Valleyfield, Ont.

From Cookstown, Ont.

Greatly pleased to learn from your telegram you acting as conciliator; use best endeavour to bring about settlement, continue your effort long as any chance of succeeding.

W. MULOCK.



SESSIONAL PAPER No. 87

**16.***(Telegram,)*  
*Copy.*

30th October, 1900.

To WM. MULOCK,  
Postmaster General.

From Valleyfield, Que.

Your telegram received. Am pleased to inform you that a satisfactory settlement of dispute has been concluded and that all the operatives have returned to work. I held a meeting of the strikers in the Town Hall last night and they agreed to return to work and continue, provided the troops were withdrawn to-day, and no further dismissals because of strike. Conveyed proposition to company who have acceded to same. Orders given for all troops to leave to-day. Some companies have already left. No further dismissals made, all men at work, every reason to believe settlement final, and most satisfactory to company, employees and citizens of Valleyfield. Return to Montreal to-night, Ottawa in morning.

W. L. MACKENZIE KING.

**17.***(Telegram,)*  
*Copy.*

BRADFORD, ONT., October 30.

W. L. MACKENNIE KING,  
Labour Department,  
Ottawa.

My heartiest congratulations on successful settlement of Valleyfield strike.

W. MULOCK,  
.....8 P.M.**18.***(Telegram,)*  
*Copy.*

31st October, 1900.

To HON. WM. MULOCK.

From Montreal, Que., 30, Via Cookstown, Ont., 30.

Saw King to-day, and think, have arranged matters satisfactorily,

J. N. GREENSHIELDS.

STATEMENT showing expenditure incurred by the Department of Labour in connection with the strike at Valleyfield, Que.  
\$57.24.



